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November 29, 2011

Karl Morell
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E-FILED

Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

STB
Part of
Public Record

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 478X), BNSF Railway
Company -- Abandonment Exemption -- In Cass County,
North Dakota

Dear Ms. Brown:

On October 11, 2011, BNSF Railway Company filed, with the
Surface Transportation Board, the Environmental and Historic
Reports in the above-referenced proceeding.

Attached please find the additional response we received from the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

Karl Morell
Of Counsel

Enclosure



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October 11, 2011

Karl Morell
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Mr. Jeffrey K. Towner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain-Prairie Region
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228

**Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 478X) - BNSF Railway Company -
Abandonment Exemption - in Cass County, North Dakota**


Dear Mr. Towner:

In approximately three weeks BNSF will be filing with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon 7.40 miles of rail line located in Cass County, North Dakota, between Milepost 68.10 in Arthur and the end of the line at Milepost 75.50 in Hunter. The line traverses United States Postal ZIP Codes 58006 and 58048. Enclosed are environmental and historic reports describing the proposed action and any expected environmental or historic effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing these reports so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental and historic analyses of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental review process, please contact the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, telephone (202) 245-0295, and refer to the above docket number. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to OEA, with a copy to BNSF, would be appreciated within three weeks.

Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and/or historic preservation impacts of the contemplated action. If there are any questions concerning these reports, please contact John Sims at 202-245-3376 or john.sims@bnsf.com or me at 202-638-3307 or kmorell@balljanik.com.

Sincerely,


Karl Morell
Of Counsel

KM:mjl
Enclosure

Portland, Oregon

Bend, Oregon

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES ND FIELD OFFICE	
Project as described will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. No endangered or threatened species are known to occupy the project area and/or are not likely to be adversely affected. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT PLANS FOR REVIEW.	
<u>11/18/11</u> Date	<u>Jeffrey K. Towner</u> Jeffrey K. Towner Field Supervisor